

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 341

**An Act to Open a Discount State Liquor Store in Calais and
Conduct a Study Concerning the Opening of a Store in Fort Kent**

PUBLIC 755

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DRISCOLL CASSIDY	OTP-AM	H-934 S-636 PARADIS

LD 341 proposed to require the location of a discount state liquor store in Calais.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-934) proposed to establish a study commission to explore the feasibility and benefits of locating a discount state liquor store in Fort Kent. It would also change the title of the bill.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "B" (S-636) proposed to change the makeup of the Joint Select Commission to Study the Opening of a Discount State Liquor Store in Fort Kent.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 755 requires the location of a discount state liquor store in Calais, Maine, and establishes the Joint Select Commission to Study the Opening of a Discount Liquor Store in Fort Kent.

LD 708

**An Act to Protect Small, Independent Businesses Not Meeting
Minimum Lottery Sales Requirements**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER KILKELLY	ONTP	

LD 708 proposed to require that a state lottery agent be notified immediately when the Director of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations recommends that the agent's license be suspended or revoked and that the agent be given an opportunity to file a statement of opposition to the recommendation. The bill also proposed to allow the State Lottery Commission to consider the impact that suspension or revocation of the license would have within the geographic area served, specify the procedure for appealing the commission's decision and authorize the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement the provision governing suspension and revocation of licenses.

LD 989 An Act to Grandfather Existing Structures in Relation to Fire Doors and Exits ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE	ONTP	

LD 989 proposed to exempt structures existing before September 1, 1994 from Life Safety Code 101 requirements regarding fire doors and exits.

LD 1072 An Act Pertaining to the Sanford National Guard Armory ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE	ONTP	
MACKINNON		

LD 1072 proposed to require the State to offer to sell the Sanford Armory to the Town of Sanford for \$1.

LD 1676 An Act to Preserve Live Harness Racing in the State DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SPEAR	OTP-AM MAJ	
NUTTING	ONTP MIN	

LD 1676 proposed to authorize the operation of video lottery terminals at harness horse racing tracks and at off-track betting facilities. The Harness Racing Commission would license video gaming terminals and terminal manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and operators. Forty percent of terminal income, after payback to players, would go to the State for administrative expenses and for distribution through municipal revenue sharing. Other amounts would be distributed to the agricultural fairs, harness horse racing purse supplements, the distributor and operator of the terminals, the Sire Stakes Fund and the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1094) proposed to replace the bill. It would have provided for licensing of video gaming terminals and terminal manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and operators by the Chief of the State Police, following background investigations of the applicants and their major business partners. The maximum number of terminals allowed would be 250 at a commercial racetrack and 50 at an off-track betting parlor. Terminals would be connected to a computer system operated by the Director of the State Lottery and providing for continuous on-line monitoring of video gaming machine activity. Persons under 18 are not allowed to use the machines. Each game on each machine must return at least 90 percent of wagers to players, calculated on an annual basis.

A single distributor would not have been allowed to own more than 300 machines or 15 percent of the total number of machines in the State, whichever is less. A person could not hold more than one type of license, e.g., a distributor may not also be a licensee or a manufacturer, except that a licensee may hold a distributor license solely

for the purpose of obtaining terminals from the manufacturer or wholesaler for placement on that licensee's premises.

Net terminal income, which is income after payback to players, would have been divided as follows: 40 percent to the State for payment of administrative expenses, municipal revenue sharing, compulsive gambling treatment and General Fund revenue; 22 percent to the distributor; 24 percent to the licensee; nine percent to the State Harness Racing Commission to be used for purse supplements; one percent to the Sire Stakes Fund; two percent to the Agricultural Fair Support Fund to be divided among all fairs as specified in the bill; and two percent to the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.

LD 1799 An Act to Privatize Liquor Sales ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR AMERO	ONTP	

LD 1799 proposed to remove the State from the liquor business including both retail and wholesale sales. The current system used for the sale of spirits would be replaced with the system currently used for the sale and distribution of beer and wine. A flat tax of \$3.50 per gallon would be assessed on all spirits, in addition to premium and sales taxes.

This bill proposed to require the State to close all liquor related operations by January 1, 1998. All existing restrictions on location and number of agency stores would be repealed. Any retailer would be able to apply for a license. The initial license fee for the first year would be \$1,200 and \$1,000 annually for renewals for those retailers with annual sales greater than or equal to \$400,000. For those retailers with annual sales less than \$400,000 the initial license fee would be \$600 and \$500 annually for renewal. Existing agency stores would be granted a one-year exemption from the renewal fee. Wholesalers that have had a presence in Maine for five years would be able to apply for a wholesale liquor license for \$1,400 annually for a principal location and \$600 for each additional warehouse or distribution center.

**LD 1827 An Act to Authorize the Operation of Video Gaming Terminals by
Certain Nonprofit Organizations ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT DUNLAP	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 1827 proposed to authorize the operation of video gaming terminals in certain nonprofit establishments and establishments that sell liquor.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-632) would have replaced the bill. It proposed to allow operation of video gaming terminals by nonprofit organizations that are eligible for games of chance licenses and that are exempt from federal tax under Internal Revenue Code sections 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10) and 501(c)(19). These sections of the tax code refer to charitable organizations, civic leagues, fraternal benefit societies, domestic fraternal societies and association, and veterans organizations.

Video gaming terminal manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and operators and video gaming terminals would be licensed by the Chief of the State Police. Local approval is required for a license to operate video gaming terminals. A maximum of five terminals would be allowed per licensee. Terminals would be connected to an on-line computer system operated and monitored by the Director of the State Lottery.

Net terminal income, which is income after payback to players, is divided as follows: 33-1/3 percent to the State for payment of administrative expenses, municipal revenue sharing, compulsive gambling treatment and General Fund revenue; 33-1/3 percent to the distributor; 33-1/3 percent to the licensee.

LD 1828	An Act to Preserve Financial Integrity of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations	ONTP
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAUD	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1828 proposed to change the structure of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. It would eliminate the State Liquor Commission and place the powers of the commission regarding administration of state liquor stores and the purchase and sale of spirits under the authority of the Bureau. An Alcoholic Beverages Advisory Board would be established by this bill.

State liquor stores would be required to maintain a minimum inventory of 4,000 bottles of liquor plus three weeks inventory. The bill would require relocation of the Kittery discount store and placement of megabucks machines in all state liquor stores. The Bureau would be required to establish special price allowance programs that would permit them to match vendor discounts and increase revenue generated by sales promotions.

LD 1846	An Act to Prohibit the Opening of Liquor Stores on the Maine Turnpike	DIED ON ADJOURNMENT
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DONNELLY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1846 proposed to repeal the provision authorizing the establishment of two discount liquor stores at Exit 3 of the Maine Turnpike and to enact law prohibiting the location or operation of a liquor store on the Maine Turnpike.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-830) made technical corrections to the emergency preamble and added a retroactivity clause and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1876 **Resolve, to Allow Certain Employees to Continue to Sue the State to Recover Wages Improperly Denied under Federal Wage and Hour Laws** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS LAWRENCE	ONTP	

LD 1876 proposed to waive the State’s claim to sovereign immunity in the case of *Alden et al. v. State of Maine*, No. CV-96-751 (Me. Super. Ct., Cum. Cty.), in which certain state employees claim payment for overtime under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

LD 1915 **An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Filing of Municipal Campaign Reports** **PUBLIC 567**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CIANCHETTE	OTP	

LD 1915 amends the law governing campaign reports in municipal elections and referenda in towns or cities of 15,000 or more to require that political action committees file their actual registrations and reports with the municipal clerk rather than copies of their registration and report.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 567 requires that political action committees file actual registrations and reports, not copies, with the municipal clerk.

LD 1917 **An Act to Amend the Election Laws** **PUBLIC 581**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT	OTP-AM	S-451

LD 1917 proposed to make several changes to the laws governing the filing of petitions, as follows.

1. It would clarify that the petition form for organization of a new party must be approved by the Secretary of State and printed by the voter or voters proposing to form the new party.
2. It would change "working" days to "business" days, which is a term defined in the law.
3. It would change the time for the initial review of an application for a citizen's initiative or people's veto referendum from 15 working days to 10 business days and clarifies that the Secretary of State must either reject the application or respond to the applicant with a revised draft of the legislation within that time.

4. The bill would also propose to provide an additional 10 business days for the Secretary of State to review each change or subsequent draft of a citizen's initiative and respond to the applicant with a revised draft or suggested revisions to the draft within that time. Once the applicant has approved the final language of the proposed legislation, the Secretary of State would have 10 business days to provide the ballot question to the applicant.
5. This bill would clarify that referendum questions may be printed on a state candidate election ballot or municipal election ballot if approved by the Secretary of State.
6. This bill would establish the order of questions on a ballot to include a carry-over measure from a previous election, such as a competing measure or citizen initiative that did not receive the majority of votes required to be enacted.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-451) proposed to clarify the procedure for submitting an application for a citizen's initiative to include submission of written consent to the final language of the proposed law. This amendment would clarify that written consent to the final language is needed for a citizen's initiative but not for a people's veto referendum.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 581 makes several changes to the laws governing the filing of petitions including: changing the term “working” days to “business” days; clarifying that new party organization forms are approved by the Secretary of State but printed by voters proposing the new party; changing the time frame for application review of citizen’s initiative or people’s veto referendum from 15 to 10 business days; allows for 10 business days for the Secretary of State to review each subsequent draft of a citizen’s initiative or people’s veto; providing that referendum questions may be printed on state candidate or municipal election ballots if approved by the Secretary of State and; establishes the order of ballot questions to include carry-over measures.

LD 1932 **An Act to Promote Competition in the State's Liquor Industry** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT	ONTP	

LD 1932 proposed to repeal the section of law that imposes pricing limits on agency liquor stores.

LD 1940 **An Act to Standardize Poll Opening Times** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRUE	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1940 proposed to standardize the opening times for polling places.

LD 2016 **An Act to Allow an Agency Liquor Store to Exchange Products with a State Liquor Store** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT	ONTP	

LD 2016 proposed to allow an agency liquor store to exchange inventory with a state liquor store.

LD 2028 An Act to Clarify the Authority of the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to Conduct Appeal Hearings PUBLIC 571

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT	OTP	

LD 2028 proposed to allow the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to conduct hearings or appoint a hearings officer to conduct appeal hearing pertaining to licensing decisions made by municipal officers.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 571 provides that the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement may conduct hearings or appoint a hearings officer to conduct appeal hearings pertaining to licensing decisions made by municipal officers.

LD 2046 An Act to Improve Voter Participation DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TESSIER	OTP MAJ	
DAGGETT	ONTP MIN	

LD 2046 proposed to amend the election laws by making it easier for a person to vote by absentee ballot. The bill would allow any voter to vote by absentee ballot at any election. The bill would further allow a voter whose physical incapacity prevents the voter from going to the polls, to obtain an absentee ballot for all elections during a calendar year, after submission of a properly completed application. The bill also allows municipalities to conduct elections by mail for municipal officers or a municipal referendum

LD 2047

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's
Advisory Committee on Gambling**

PUBLIC 684

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRUE FERGUSON	OTP-AM	H-965

LD 2047 proposed to amend the statutes pertaining to the enforcement of beano, bingo, Lucky 7 and games of chance laws as recommended by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Gambling as follows.

1. It proposed to give the Chief of the State Police the authority to investigate alleged violations of the laws pertaining to beano, bingo, Lucky 7 and games of chance in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17 and gambling laws in the Maine Criminal Code and authority to administratively suspend or revoke licenses for violations.
2. License fees would be increased to cover the costs associated with enforcement and the administrative regulation of the licensees.
3. Organizations licensed to conduct beano, bingo and Lucky 7 would prohibited from renting space to conduct a game from a member of the licensed organization or an immediate family member of a member of a licensed organization.
4. Organizations licensed to conduct beano, bingo, Lucky 7 and games of chance would be required to post net revenues and donations to charitable and nonprofit activities.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-965) proposed to change the yearly fees for beano, bingo and games of chance licenses from \$432 to \$400 and \$720 to \$700, respectively. This amendment would add a special license fee of \$5 per game. This amendment would remove the proposed renting restrictions placed upon licensed organizations as applied to the operation of beano and bingo games, and clarify that a request for a hearing must be granted to a licensee by the Commissioner of Public Safety in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

Senate Amendment “A” (S-608), which was not adopted, proposed to permit a federally recognized Indian tribe to conduct high-stakes beano or bingo at the site of the Scarborough Downs race-track in the Town of Scarborough.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 684 authorizes the Chief of the State Police to investigate alleged violations of the laws pertaining to beano, bingo, Lucky 7 and games of chance and administratively suspend or revoke licenses for violations in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Weekly, monthly and yearly fees for beano, bingo and games of chance and a special per-game license fee for beano or bingo are established by this law. In addition, this law requires organizations licensed to conduct beano, bingo, Lucky 7 and games of change to post net revenues and donations to charitable and nonprofit activities.

LD 2052

**Resolve, Compensating Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation of
Monticello for Claims Against the State**

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHEELER E KIEFFER	OTP-AM	

LD 2052 proposed to authorize Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation to sue the State for the damages that they allegedly suffered in connection with the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-933) proposed to change the resolve from a resolve that authorizes suit against the State to a resolve that requires payment of \$250,000 to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation in settlement of losses suffered as a result of the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

The bill was not enacted, but the supplemental budget bill (Public Law 1997, chapter 643, section ZZ-1) authorized payment to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation of \$125,000 from the Risk Management Fund in settlement of claims.

LD 2054 An Act to Make Voting Places Handicapped Accessible ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STEVENS	ONTP	

LD 2054 proposed to require that all voting places be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

LD 2075 Resolve, to Allow David Prentiss to Sue the State of Maine UNSIGNED

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEAL	OTP-AM MAJ	H-841
KIEFFER	ONTP MIN	H-851 WHEELER E

LD 2075 proposed to authorize David Prentiss to sue the State and certain employees of the Department of Environmental Protection to recover damages up to \$250,000 that were allegedly incurred due to the listing of his property as an uncontrolled hazardous waste site by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-841) proposed to remove authorization for Mr. Prentiss to sue individual past and present employees of the Department of Environmental Protection.

House Amendment "A" (H-851) proposed to limit the amount of money that David Prentiss can receive from the State to \$70,000 and to remove the emergency preamble and emergency clause.

LD 2082

An Act to Improve the Integrity of the Citizen Initiative Process

PUBLIC 637

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-938

LD 2082 proposed to change the time period for submission of a direct initiative and the validity of the application for a direct initiative from three years to one year, to correspond to the time for validity of petition signatures set forth in the Constitution of Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-938) clarifies that the bill does not apply to petitions issued before April 1, 1998.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 637 changes the time period for submission of a direct initiative and the validity of the application for a direct initiative from three years to one year, to correspond to the time for validity of petition signatures set forth in the Constitution of Maine.

LD 2091

**An Act Providing for Additional Meetings in the Event of a Tie
Vote at Town Meetings**

PUBLIC 733

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WRIGHT LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	H-988 H-1072 WRIGHT

LD 2091 proposed to require a municipality to hold a run-off election for school elections if the initial election resulted in a tie vote and the winner of the election cannot otherwise be determined.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-988) proposed to make the bill applicable to all municipal elections. It requires that the moderator of a town meeting adjourn the meeting to a date certain if a tie vote is discovered during the meeting. It requires that an additional town meeting be called if the tie vote is discovered after adjournment of the meeting or if the moderator adjourns the meeting without a day for the next meeting. The committee amendment also adds a mandate preamble.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1072) proposed to remove the mandate preamble from the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 733 requires the moderator of a town meeting to adjourn the meeting to a date certain if a tie vote in a candidate election is discovered during the meeting. It requires that an additional town meeting be called to break a tie if the tie vote is discovered after adjournment of the meeting or if the moderator adjourns the meeting without a day for the next meeting.

LD 2113**An Act to Establish Ethical Standards for the Office of Governor****DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP MAJ	
TUTTLE	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2113 proposed to expand the authority of the existing Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to include investigating and making advisory recommendations relative to any apparent violations of the ethical standards required of the Governor and would require the Governor to adhere to similar ethical standards that apply to Legislators.

It proposed to require the Governor to disclose conflicts of interest and would require the Governor to meet the disclosure of income standards that currently apply to Legislators. Similarly, it would require the Governor to disclose gifts and honoraria.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-586) proposed to change which party may call an organizational meeting of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices from the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to the Secretary of State. This amendment would remove the requirement that the commission conduct an ethics seminar for the Governor, clarify the definition of "honorarium" and define "legislative matter." It would provide that the commission has the authority to issue advisory opinions to the Governor and investigate complaints by the Governor against a Legislator.

This amendment would add the Governor and the Secretary of State to the list of those to whom the commission reports when dealing with complaints against the Governor. It also proposed to remove the requirement of a press release when presenting findings of an investigation of complaints against the Governor.

This amendment proposed to require that commission advisory opinions and findings regarding complaints be filed with the Office of the Governor in addition to the Clerk of the House. It would also add a section that defines abuse of executive office.

LD 2124**An Act to Allow Liquor Licenses for Commercial Vessels****PUBLIC 656
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMPSON	OTP-AM MAJ	H-915
	ONTP MIN	

LD 2124 proposed to permit commercial vessels licensed for carrying 25 or more passengers on inland waters to obtain liquor licenses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-915) proposed to add commercial vessels navigated on inland waters to the liquor licensing provisions of the statutes and provide that a commercial inland vessel does not require municipal or county approval to obtain a liquor license.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 656 permits commercial vessels licensed to carry 25 or more passengers on inland waters to obtain a liquor license without municipal or county approval. This license would permit the distribution of liquor only after leaving and prior to reaching its dock. This law was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 1, 1998.

LD 2155

An Act to Encourage Hospitality Industry Development in the State

PUBLIC 659

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT VIGUE	OTP-AM	S-532

LD 2155 proposed to carve out specific exceptions to the prohibition against retail liquor licenses having direct or indirect financial interest in a certificate of approval holder if the retail licensee is a hotel and the certificate of approval holder has no interest in a wholesale licensee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-532) clarifies legislative intent regarding separation of interest between liquor manufacturing, wholesaling or retailing. It also clarifies the Legislature's commitment to the three-tier system by enacting a provision governing statutory construction of the exception contained in the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 659 provides specific exceptions to the prohibition in the liquor licensing laws against a certificate of approval holder having a direct or indirect financial interest in a retail licensee.

LD 2157

Resolve, to Allow the Estate of Barbara Maxfield to Sue the State

RESOLVE 126

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL SHIAH	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-494 S-529 SMALL

LD 2157 proposed to direct the Governor to pay \$500,000 from the General Fund in full settlement of any and all claims against the State, the Department of Public Safety and the Maine State Police for damages resulting from the March 23, 1997 accident at the Maine Turnpike, Exit 6-A tollbooth in Scarborough in which Barbara Maxfield was killed.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-494) reduces the amount of the appropriation to the estate of Barbara Maxfield from \$500,000 to \$275,000.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-529) replaces the bill. It proposed to authorize the estate of Barbara Maxfield to sue the State on behalf of Allan Maxfield for damages due to alleged negligence on the part of the State for failure to intercept a drunken driver who killed Barbara Maxfield at the Maine Turnpike Exit 6-A tollbooth.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 126 authorizes the estate of Barbara Maxfield to sue the State on behalf of her son, Allan Maxfield, for damages due to alleged negligence on the part of the State for failure to intercept a drunken driver who killed Barbara Maxfield at the Maine Turnpike Exit 6-A tollbooth.

LD 2159

An Act to Establish an Advisory Commission on Women Veterans

PUBLIC 742

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-964

LD 2159 proposed to establish the Advisory Commission on Women Veterans to advise the Department of Defense and Veterans' Services on issues affecting women veterans and to serve as a liaison between women veterans and the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-964) proposed to correct the title of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and to add language to allow the Advisory Commission on Women Veterans to serve as liaison to the federal veterans agency on a variety of veterans' issues, not just medical care.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 742 establishes the Advisory Commission on Women Veterans to advise the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management on issues affecting women veterans and to serve as a liaison between women veterans and the federal Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center at Togus.

LD 2165

An Act to Promote the Expansion of Pari-mutuel Simulcast Wagering

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VIGUE CAREY	ONTP	

LD 2165 proposed to permit interstate simulcasting of dog races and pari-mutuel wagering on those races.

LD 2169**An Act Regarding the Employment of Harness Race Track Officials****PUBLIC 735**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM	H-981 S-583 DAGGETT

LD 2169 proposed to change the law pertaining to harness racing, focusing on the hiring of race meet officials and the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.

This bill would provide that a licensee may hire race meet officials that are licensed by the commission. Licensees would only be authorized to fire an official with the consent of the commission. This bill proposed to remove the Harness Racing Promotional fund from the list of recipients of race track's commission. It would require that the portion of the fund - what is left over after administrative costs and not including money raised by the board - be paid to the licensees as reimbursement for promotional expenses. The bill proposed to repeal the Harness Racing Promotional Board effective July 1, 1999.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-981) proposed to strike the entire bill, replacing it with provisions for hiring and firing race track officials and a requirement that the Harness Racing Promotional Board report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters of harness racing.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-583) proposed to provide that the State Harness Racing Commission may impose conditions on a license for an off-track betting facility if those conditions are requested both by the applicant and by the municipality in which the off-track betting facility is to be located.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 735 establishes provisions for hiring race track officials. Licensees may only hire officials licensed by the State Harness Racing Commission and may not terminate employees without consent of the commission. This law outlines the membership requirements of the Harness Racing Promotional Board and requires the board to report to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters of harness racing each year before the 15th of February. This law also provides that a conditional license may be issued to an off-track betting facility if those conditions are requested both by the applicant and the municipality in which the facility is to be located.

LD 2202**An Act Regarding Veterans' Benefits****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE DAGGETT	ONTP	

LD 2202 proposed to provide that persons cohabiting and acknowledging each other as husband and wife, and generally reputed to be such, for a period of at least three years and until one of them dies thereafter are deemed to have been legally married for the purpose of determining eligibility for any type of veterans' benefit.

An Act to Amend the Authority of the Adjutant General to Sell Armories, to Increase the Authorized Size of the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and to Authorize the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Purchase Land in Houlton for a New Public Safety Facility

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT POVICH	OTP-AM	S-556 S-581 DAGGETT S-582 DAGGETT

LD 2212 proposed to remove the authority of the Adjutant General to sell the Sanford Armory. It would authorize the Adjutant General to sell the Bath, Brunswick and Millinocket armories, a six and one-half acre parcel of land across the road from the Belfast Armory and a two-acre parcel west of the Augusta Armory building.

The bill proposed to remove the acreage restriction for land acquisition at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and would authorize the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to purchase land in Houlton for a new public safety facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-556) proposed to clarify that the Adjutant General may sell the Bath or the Brunswick armory, but not both, and would add a feasibility study on the advisability of locating a veterans' cemetery in Aroostook County to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-581) proposed to make technical corrections to the committee amendment.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-582) proposed to remove the authority granted by the bill to the Adjutant General to sell a two-acre parcel of land west of the Augusta Armory building.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 783 removes the authority of the Adjutant General to sell the Sanford Armory. It authorizes the Adjutant General to sell the Bath or Brunswick and Millinocket armories and a six and one-half acre parcel of land across the road from the Belfast Armory. This law removes the acreage restriction for acquiring land at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery and directs a study to examine the feasibility of locating a veteran's cemetery in Aroostook County. This law also authorizes the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to purchase land in Houlton for a new public safety facility.

LD 2242

An Act to Enter into the Emergency Management Assistance Compact

PUBLIC 780

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM	S-591
WINGLASS		S-741 MICHAUD

LD 2242 proposed to adopt the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing a framework for mutual assistance between the states that adopt the compact in managing any emergency or disaster that is declared by the governor of an affected state.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-591) proposed to revise the language of the compact to restore the language to its original form with minor technical changes.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-741) proposed to increase from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000 the amount to be transferred from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 780 enacts the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing a framework for mutual assistance between the states that adopt the compact in managing any emergency or disaster that is declared by the governor of an affected state.

LD 2296

An Act Concerning Legislative Review of Rules Adopted under the Maine Clean Election Act

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE		
LABRECQUE		

LD 2296 proposed to designate the rules to be adopted by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices under the Maine Clean Election Act as major substantive rules, requiring legislative review prior to final adoption. This bill was considered without reference to committee .